

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /059 W
----- 123590

R 200855Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5785

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: SUHARTO DOWNPLAYS CABINET CHANGES, DENIES
DICTATORSHIP, AND OPPOSES "WESTERNIZATION."

REF: A. JAKARTA 10114 B. JAKARTA 13230

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH AT GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENT
SUHARTO DOWNPLAYED RUMORS OF CABINET CHANGES, ASSERTED
"I AM NOT A DICTATOR," AND CALLED FOR MODERNIZATION
OF INDONESIA "WITHOUT WESTERNIZATION" OF ITS CULTURE.
STATEMENT RE CABINET CHANGES SUGGESTS ALI MURTOPO WILL
NOT GET INTERIOR PORTFOLIO ANY TIME SOON; DICTATORSHIP
STATEMENT IS PROBABLE REACTION TO RECENT WESTERN PRESS SPECULATION;
AND ANTI-WESTERN REFERENCE REFLECTS CONTINUING GOI SENSI-
TIVITY OVER FOREIGN INFLUENCES. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS
REPORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOI PRESIDENT SUHARTO DECEMBER 19 DELIVERED MAJOR
ADDRESS AT 25TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES AT GADJAH MADA
UNIVERSITY IN YOGYAKARTA. OCCASION GIVEN PROMINENT
ATTENTION DUE GADJAH MADA'S STATUS AS OLDEST "NATIONAL"
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UNIVERSITY. SPEECH WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFUSE, AS INDICATED

BY PRESS COVERAGE WHICH SEIZED ON WIDELY DISPARATE THEMES. MAIN THEME WAS FAIRLY STANDARD PITCH FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON 1945 CONSTITUTION AND STATE PHILOSOPHY PANCASILA, LATTER OF WHICH SUHARTO SUGGESTED SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO "SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH" BY UNIVERSITIES SUCH AS GADJAH MADA TO DEVELOP "UNIFIED UNDERSTANDING" OF ITS MEANING IN SIMPLIFIED, CLEAR AND SYSTEMATIC TERMS. SUHARTO ALSO MADE FOLLOWING MORE TANGIBLE COMMENTS ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

2. STATE NEWS AGENCY ANTARA QUOTED SUHARTO AS REMARKING THAT FOR SAKE OF NATIONAL STABILITY IT WAS NATURAL FOR PRESIDENT NOT TO CHANGE MINISTERS "TOO FREQUENTLY" OR WITHOUT ANY LOGICAL REASON, AND AS STRESSING THAT APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS WAS HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN WHICH OTHERS SHOULD NOT INVOLVE THEMSELVES. COMMENT: STATEMENT ECHOES SIMILAR COMMENT IN AUG 15 STATE ADDRESS (REF A) AND PROBABLY INDICATES THAT PERSISTENTLY RUMORED IMMINENT APPOINTMENT OF ALI MURTOPO AS INTERIOR MINISTER HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED.

3. SUHARTO AT ANOTHER POINT IN SPEECH STRESSED CONSTITUTIONALITY OF BROAD PRESIDENTIAL POWERS AND ACCORDING TO GOLKAR DAILY SUARA KARYA FLATLY ASSERTED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOT A DICTATOR AND DOES NOT HAVE ABSOLUTE POWERS. COMMENT: THIS REMARK MAY WELL HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY RECENT INFERENCES IN WESTERN PRESS (REF B) THAT SUHARTO EXHIBITING AUTHORITARIAN TENDENCIES AND AMBITIONS FOR LIFETIME TENURE.

4. IN SPEAKING OF NEED FOR FURTHERING OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SUHARTO MADE POINTED REMARK THAT "PEMBAHARUAN" (MODERNIZATION) IS NOT SAME AS "PEMBARATAN" (WESTERNIZATION), AND THAT INDONESIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY SHOULD BE DEVELOPED ON ITS OWN WITHOUT BLANKET ADOPTION OF FOREIGN CULTURE. COMMENT: DEVELOPMENT OF INDONESIAN IDENTITY IS BOILERPLATE THEME OF GOI PRONOUNCEMENTS; DIRECT CRITICAL REFERENCE BY PRESIDENT TO WESTERN CULTURE IS MORE UNUSUAL AND REFLECTS WIDESPREAD SENSITIVITY TOWARD FOREIGN INFLUENCES. REMARK WAS NOT PROMINENTLY FEATURED BY INDONESIAN LANGUAGE PRESS (THOUGH HEADLINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS), BUT MAY WELL LEAD TO SIMILAR STATEMENTS BY OTHER GOI OFFICIALS OVER COMING MONTHS. TOUSSAINT

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